

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		Number: 1042-137
SUBJECT: President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production While Protecting Public Health	DATE: September 27, 2000	
	OPI: Office of the Secretary	

1 PURPOSE/SCOPE

This charter establishes the President's Commission on Improving Economic Opportunity in Communities Dependent on Tobacco Production while Protecting Public Health (Commission) pursuant to an Executive Order. The purpose of the Commission is to provide advice to the President on changes occurring in the tobacco farming economy and recommend such measures as may be necessary to improve economic opportunity and development in communities that are dependent on tobacco production, and protect consumers, particularly children, from hazards associated with smoking.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

a Unless renewed, this Commission will terminate 30 days after submitting its final report, but not later than 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

b This charter will expire 2 years from the date of filing.

3 MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

a The Commission shall be composed of not more than 10 members to be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the President. The members may include tobacco producers and quota holders; public health experts; Federal, state and local government representatives; and experts in agricultural economics and economic development.

b Each member is appointed for the life of the Commission.

c Two co-chairs shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from the membership of the Commission. The Co-chairs shall report to the President through the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

d A vacancy on the Commission will be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

e Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Commission. To ensure that the recommendations of the Commission have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

f A majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Commission.

4 DUTIES

The Commission shall:

a Collect and review information about changes in the tobacco farming economy and federal, state, and local initiatives intended to help tobacco growers, tobacco quota holders and communities dependent on tobacco production pursue new economic opportunities. The Commission may make recommendations concerning these, and any other changes and initiatives that may be necessary to improve economic opportunity in communities dependent on tobacco production. It shall also consider the public health implications of such changes and initiatives, including the efforts to reduce youth smoking and tobacco related health consequences in the United States and abroad.

b For the purpose of carrying out its functions, hold hearings, establish subcommittees, and convene and act at such times and places as the Commission may find advisable.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

a Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem in accordance with USDA travel regulations for attendance at Commission functions.

b Estimated annual operating costs are \$212,500 for FY 2001 for staff and all operating expenses.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Commission shall meet as often as is necessary to complete its business.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

- a The Commission shall make a preliminary report through the Secretary of the Department Agriculture and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to the President by December 31, 2000. A final report shall be submitted six months after the Commissions' first meeting.
- b To the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall provide the Commission, upon request, with such information as it may require for the purposes of carrying out its function.
- c To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Agriculture shall provide the Commission with administrative services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services necessary for the performance of the Commission's functions. Notwithstanding any other Executive Order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, except that of reporting to the Congress, that are applicable to the Commission shall be performed by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with guidelines that have been issued by the Administration of General Services.

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